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Circular to Managers of Tasmanian Pharmacies

Products containing pseudoephedrine

The NSW Government recently amended poisons legislation in that state to move single ingredient pseudoephedrine tablet products from Schedule 2 to Schedule 3, and to require the pharmacist to record details of each supply. These amendments followed the issue of instructions by the Pharmacy Board of NSW and the NSW Department of Health to pharmacists in that state that control of pseudoephedrine was considered to be a matter of public importance. Clandestine laboratories are reported to be targeting both compounded and non-compounded tablets for conversion into illicit amphetamine.

The Board and the Department imposed the following professional requirements on all pharmacists in NSW as a matter of urgency-

- ?? **Any attempt to purchase more than one pack of any size of either pseudoephedrine tablets or compound pseudoephedrine tablets is to be referred to the pharmacist.**
- ?? **The sale of any quantity of either pseudoephedrine tablets or compound pseudoephedrine tablets, or any therapeutic substance, must be in a quantity or for a purpose in accordance with recognised therapeutic standards.**

It was also recommended that pharmacists should give serious consideration to storing both pseudoephedrine tablets and compound pseudoephedrine tablets out of reach of the public. (A similar recommendation was made to Tasmanian pharmacists some time ago.)

While these professional requirements were applied following some major concerns about the inappropriate supply of large quantities of pseudoephedrine products in that state, occasional persistent reports of organised attempts to purchase pseudoephedrine products in Tasmania have also been received.

No decision has been made to move single ingredient pseudoephedrine tablets to Schedule 3 in this state. Scheduling issues will be further considered following the National Drugs and Poisons Scheduling Committee meeting in February. **However, the Pharmacy Board of Tasmania and the Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services believes that Tasmanian pharmacists should closely adhere to the practice requirements outlined above without delay.**

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